



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

gh

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 08/981,654 | 01/08/98 | KANEKO | Y 971480 |

MMC1/1122
ARMSTRONG WESTERMAN HATTORI MCLELAND &
NAUGHTON
1725 K STREET NW
SUITE 1000
WASHINGTON DC 20006

| EXAMINER | |
|-----------|--------------|
| NGUYEN, D | |
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |

2871

DATE MAILED: 11/22/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
08/981,654

Applicant(s)
Kaneko et al.

Examiner
Dung Nguyen

Group Art Unit
2871



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Aug 29, 2000

☒ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) 4-18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

Art Unit: 2871

The amendment filed date 08/29/2000 has been received and entered.

Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Specification

1. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required:

Regarding claims 1 and 2, the amendment has the purpose of adjusting the twisted angle of a liquid crystal display (LCD) device in the range of 190° to 260°. However, there is nowhere in the specification discloses the LCD having a pair of polarizing plates with such twist angle range so that absorption axes of the pair of polarizing plates being angled within a range $\pm 40^\circ$ to $\pm 50^\circ$ respect to a direction of the orientation of liquid crystal molecules in an intermediate portion in a direction of thickness of the liquid crystal layer and Δn being in the range of 600 to 900nm. Accordingly, claims 1 and 2 are not disclosed in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly

Art Unit: 2871

connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claim 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Regarding claims 1 and 2, they have been contained the material which is not supported by the disclosure as described above. According to the specification and the drawing, the twisted angle of the LCD device can be equal or greater than 180° (i.e, 240° or 180° - 260°). Therefore, one of ordinary skill would not be able to merely enable to make the invention commensurate in scope with those claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wada et al., US Patent 5,119,216, in view of Furuta, US Patent No. 5,699,133.

Regarding claim 2, Wada et al. disclose an LCD device having a twisted angle equal or greater than 180° , a pair of polarizing plates (1, 4) and the retardation value of 900nm (example

Art Unit: 2871

1). Although Wada et al. do not explicitly disclose the value of the applied voltage V_2 (figures 23-24), Furuta does disclose that the applied voltage can be 10 to 20V (figure 4). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at the time invention was made to apply a voltage as shown by Furuta in the Wada et al. device since it is a common practice in the art to use a high voltage for a liquid crystal shutter in order to obtain a high light transmission (col. 3, ln. 26).

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2871

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Dung Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-0423. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-7726.

Any information of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

DN
11/18/2000


William L. Sikes
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 2871